

JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

LEVEL
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CHRISTIAN AUDIO-VISUAL CENTER GROUND-BREAKING

With the news from RAVENMCO that \$62,950 of the needed \$75,000 had been pledged by mission boards the last obstacle to beginning the projected two-story Christian Audio-visual Center in Tokyo was cleared away. Ground adjoining Aoyama Gakuin has been provided by that Christian school which in return will receive the use free of one large room in the building. Blueprints are ready and negotiations with contractors have been begun.

Ground-breaking ceremonies are now scheduled to be held at the lot on March 24 at 12:30 p.m. Representative leaders of the Kyodan (Church of Christ in Japan), Lutheran Church, Episcopalian Church and others will participate. The building will require about six months to complete.

The purpose of this new center will be to serve all the Christian churches and organizations of Japan in the various areas of audio-visual aids and mass communications. The present work of AVACO will be continued on an enlarged basis but special emphasis will be put on the training of Christian leaders in radio, TV, and audio-visual aids through workshops and classes. This program will be carried out in cooperation with Aoyama Gakuin and other Christian schools and organizations.

In the center there will be a large studio auditorium, thirty-four by forty-five feet, suitable for radio or TV programs requiring an audience, or for workshops, conferences or film-viewing. In addition, there will be two smaller studios for making records, recording of radio broadcasts or for direct broadcasting through any Tokyo station by remote.

There is also space provided for committee meetings or smaller consultations, the film rental library, offices, and adequate work space for the production of films, film strips, records, kamishibai (the Japanese picture stories), etc.

From this center the Audio-visual Aids Committee will continue to reach out through all Japan, holding workshops in various areas sending radio programs to key stations, and films and film strips to all parts of the country. AVACO leaders will also be lecturing on A-V aids at Aoyama and other schools.

AVACO PLANS AHEAD

Aside from the A-V Center and its regular program the Audio-visual Aids Commission has planned the following during the rest of this year:

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1. To produce several films in black and white and color on various Bible stories. The first of these, shot on February 13 in black and white, is an experimental film on the parable of the soils, and is a filming of the story as told through the "Ebanashi", a distinctive Japanese story-telling device akin to the flannel-graph. A special committee is at work planning these films.

2. To publish a book of Christian plays for churches and schools.

3. To conduct a three month training course for Christian actors, actresses and writers beginning from April.

4. A Film Evaluation Committee has been set up to evaluate Japanese and foreign films, film strips and slides which will meet monthly.

5. A special committee has been set up to prepare filmstrips and kamishibai on the history of Christianity in Japan in preparation for the Centenary Celebration of the 100th year of Christian evangelism in Japan to be held in 1959.

6. To publish a quarterly magazine on audio-visual aids in Japanese to begin publication in April.

YOUTH LEADERS CONFER AT KATASE JAN. 26-28

A national "Youth Week" will be observed from May 23-30 as a result of plans made at the Katase Conference of the NCC Youth Commission and representatives of the NCC member denominations. The theme of the Youth Week will be the same as that of the Evanston Conference: "Christ, the Hope of the World", but each denomination will plan its own program.

Plans to hold summer work camps were also made at the conference which was attended by about 35 representatives. There will be 3 International Work Camps, 3 Work Camps for High school girls and boys, and 2 Youth Caravans. The Caravans will last several weeks each, and will travel all over the country while the members preach, confer with church youth and assist in Sunday Schools, church youth work and other similar activities.

Student evangelism will be emphasized during the coming year, and will be abetted by a Student leaders conference in the near future. A Study commission was appointed to devise better ways of helping the post-college group of young people through the churches.

KYODAN LEADERS TO HOLD RETREAT IN FEBRUARY

A group of 80 Kyodan leaders will discuss and evaluate the conference on the Mission of the Church held last September at a retreat at Ito from Feb. 22-25. The agenda for the retreat will also include the following points: 1. What are the obstacles to evangelism in Japan, which will involve a rethinking of the Evangelical work of the church. 2. Economic problems of the Kyodan. 3. Methods of Mission Work including: Mass meetings about Social problems, Evangelical work in Christian Schools. 4. The Centenary Movement in the Kyodan.

KYODAN CONFERENCE REPORT NOW AVAILABLE

A complete 280 page report on the September Kyodan Conference has not been published and is available from the Kyodan office, price 160 yen.

ETHEL M. NASH TO VISIT JAPAN

Ethel M. Nash, noted expert on Marriage and the Family, will visit Japan in March under the auspices of the YMCA. Mrs. Nash is at present teaching in the Department of Sociology of the University of North Carolina, and is also acting as Marriage Counselor on the staff there. A graduate of the University of Liverpool, she has worked under Dr. Frances Ilg at the Yale Clinic of Child Development, served as child psychologist to the Toronto City Schools, and as a Lecturer for the Association for Family Living in Chicago. She has written numerous pamphlets and articles including "With This Ring" (Associated Press).

During this coming summer she will be a delegate to the Second Conference on Family Problems at the Ecumenical Institute in Switzerland. Mrs. Nash will be accompanied by her husband on her trip to Japan. They were married in 1933 and have 2 sons.

While she is in Japan, Mrs. Nash will work with the NCC Family Movement Commission as well as with the YMCA.

MAYER MEMORIAL CHURCH DEDICATED

The Mayer Memorial Church in Adachi-ku was dedicated on Feb. 2. The church is in the midst of one of the worst slum areas in Tokyo, but Christian work there has been making a steady impression on the area, so that the atmosphere on the street around the church is gradually improving. Although the district abounds with juvenile delinquents, the Church Sunday School boys and girls are busy raising money to help build a kindergarten building.

The church itself was build as a result of a \$6,600 grant from the Evangelical United Brethren Board, and was named in honor of Dr. Paul S. Mayer, an EUB missionary who has been working in Japan since 1908.

JAPAN REPRESENTATIVES ATTEND WORLD ANGLICAN CHURCH CONFERENCE

About 30 representatives from Japan will attend the Pan American Congress of the World Anglican Church to be held in Minneapolis, Minn. from Aug. 4-13. The Congress, which is held once every 5 years, will discuss especially the Japanese Episcopal Church program this year.

NCC PREPARING HISTORY OF PROTESTANT CHRISTIANITY IN JAPAN

A special publishing commission with Tsuraki Yano, general secretary of the Christian Education Association as chairman has been organized by the NCC to prepare a history of Protestant Christianity in Japan for the Centenary celebration. The history, which will attempt to point up the relation of Japanese Christianity to the World Movement and its place in world history, will be built around the following proposed outline. The Committee will be composed of experts in the field of Christian history.

1. History,
2. Outline of Christian History in Japan,
3. Development of Christian knowledge during the Tokugawa era,
4. How opening the country at the end of the Tokugawa permitted Protestant Christianity to enter Japan,
5. the Policy of the Government toward Christianity during its early days,
6. Characteristic features of the Christian church in Japan (typical aspects of Japanese theology),
7. the significance of Christian thought during the Meiji era.
8. Formation of Modern Japan and Christianity,
9. the historical meaning of Christian education during the Meiji era,
10. Modern Situation and Christianity,
11. Historical function of Christian Social Work.

